

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 13-14 and 16-18 are presently active in the case, Claims 14, 16 and 18 having been amended, and Claim 15 canceled by the present amendment, and Claims 7-12 having been withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention.

In the outstanding Official Action, the title was objected to as being misdescriptive; Claims 1-6 and 13 were allowed; Claim 18 was objected to as including an informality requiring correction; Claims 14-15 were rejected under 35 USC §102 (b/e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,373,740 to Forbes et al., (hereinafter called "Forbes"); and Claims 15-18 were rejected under 345 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Forbes.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-6 and 13.

In response to the objection to the title, a new title consistent with the claimed invention and page 1, lines 12-14 of the specification has been submitted herewith. Accordingly, the objection to the title is believed to have been overcome.

In response to the objection to Claim 18, the noted informality has been corrected herewith. Accordingly, the objection to Claim 18 is believed to have been overcome.

Turning now to the several grounds for rejection on the merits, it is first noted that the applied Forbes patent issued on April 16, 2002, which was after Applicants' Jan. 23, 2002 filing date. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Forbes is at most prior art under 35 USC §102 (e) and not under 35 USC §102 (b), and to the extent that the outstanding rejection is based on 35 USC §102 (b), it is traversed.

In light of the outstanding grounds for rejection, Claim 14 has been amended to include a feature stated in Claim 15 and Claim 15 has therefore been canceled. Accordingly,

as stated in amended Claim 14, the at least two signal lines are located at positions corresponding to those of the first differential lines via the insulating layer in a majority part of the semiconductor substrate. As a result, since lines of electromagnetic field directed from the signal lines to corresponding first differential signal lines are formed within a narrow area including the signal lines and the corresponding first differential signal lines, it is possible to prevent the influence of interference not only between vertical adjacent signal lines, but also horizontal adjacent signal lines.¹

In contrast to Applicants' invention as stated in Claim 14, Forbes discloses signal lines 470 which are not located at positions corresponding to those of the first differential signal lines 450 via the insulating layer 460. Therefore, in the Forbes device, lines of electromagnetic field directed from the signal lines to corresponding first differential signal lines are not formed within a narrow area including the signal lines and the corresponding first differential signal lines, and it is not possible to attain the same degree of prevention of influence of interference between not only vertical adjacent signal lines, but also horizontal adjacent signal lines, as attained according to the claimed invention.

Furthermore, as compared with the claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that Forbes does not disclose that the signal lines are located at positions corresponding to those of the first differential signal lines via the insulating layer in a majority part of the semiconductor substrate.

Accordingly, in view of the noted deficiencies in Forbes, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 14 and Claims 16-18 dependent therefrom patentably define over Forbes.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that each of pending active Claims 1-6, 1-14 and 16-18 patentably

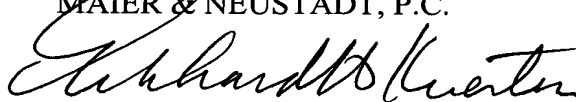
¹ Specification, page 8, lines 10-21.

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defines over the art of record and is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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